

**IN THE CLAIMS:**

Please cancel claims 7 and 24 without prejudice or disclaimer.

~~Sub 33  
E2~~ 1. (Amended) An isolated, recombinant or purified peptide of 5-30 amino acids which peptide exhibits antagonistic activity directed against IL-6, having at least one string of 5 consecutive amino acids long in common with the following amino acid sequence: EWGPRSTPSLTTKAVLLLVKRFQNSPAED (SEQ ID NO: 11).

~~Sub 33  
E3~~ 5. (Amended) The isolated, recombinant or purified peptide of claim 1 of 5-12 amino acids.

~~Sub 33  
E3~~ 6. (Thrice Amended) The isolated, recombinant or purified peptide of claim 1 having at least one string of 5 consecutive amino acids long in common with the following amino acid sequence: PRSTPSLTTKAVLLLVKRFQNS (SEQ ID NO: 5).

~~Sub 33  
E4~~ 8. (Amended) A peptide composition, wherein at least two isolated, recombinant or purified peptides of claim 1 are chemically linked directly or via spacer molecules.

~~Sub 33  
E5~~ 12. (Amended) A mixture comprising the isolated, recombinant or purified peptides of claim 1.

~~Sub 33  
E6~~ 15. (Amended) A pharmaceutical preparation comprising the isolated, recombinant or purified peptide of claim 1, together with at least one suitable excipient for administration.

~~Sub 33  
E6~~ 16. (Twice Amended) A method for clearing extra-corporeal blood or blood products from IL-6 or IL-6 receptor molecules comprising contacting said blood or blood product with the isolated, recombinant or purified peptide of claim 1.

~~Sub 33  
E6~~ 17. (Amended) A method for treating or preventing an IL-6 related disease using the pharmaceutical preparation of claim 15.

~~Sub 33  
E7~~ 21. (Amended) A method for culturing cells comprising contacting said cells, or medium wherein said cells are cultured, with the isolated, recombinant or purified peptide of claim 1.

22. (Amended) A pharmaceutical preparation comprising the isolated, recombinant or purified peptide of claim 6 together with at least one suitable excipient for administration.

23. (Twice Amended) A method for manufacturing a medicament for topical or intra-mammary application, characterized in that the isolated, recombinant or purified peptide of claim 1 is used.

71. (Amended) The isolated, recombinant or purified peptide of claim 5 having at least one string of 5 consecutive amino acids long in common with the following amino acid sequence: PRSTPSLTTPKAVLLVRKFQNS (SEQ ID NO: 5).

Please add the following new claims:

74. (New) A method for exerting agonistic IL-6 activity at concentrations that are relatively equivalent to 7.5 to 120 µg/ml characterized in that the isolated, recombinant or purified peptide of claim 1 is used.

75. (New) A mixture comprising the peptide composition of claim 8.

76. (New) An antibody specifically directed against the isolated, recombinant peptide of claim 1.

77. (New) An antibody specifically directed against the peptide composition of claim 8.

78. (New) A pharmaceutical preparation comprising the peptide composition of claim 8, together with at least one suitable excipient for administration.

79. (New) A pharmaceutical preparation comprising the antibody of claim 76, together with at least one suitable excipient for administration.

80. (New) A pharmaceutical preparation comprising the antibody of claim 77, together with at least one suitable excipient for administration.

81. (New) A method for clearing extra-corporeal blood or blood products from IL-6 or IL-6 receptor molecules comprising contacting said blood or blood product with the peptide composition of claim 8.

82. (New) A method for clearing extra-corporeal blood or blood products from IL-6 or IL-6 receptor molecules comprising contacting said blood or blood product with the antibody of claim 76.

83. (New) A method for clearing extra-corporeal blood or blood products from IL-6 or IL-6 receptor molecules comprising contacting said blood or blood product with the antibody of claim 77.

84. (New) A method for treating or preventing an IL-6 related disease in a subject comprising administering to the subject the pharmaceutical preparation of claim 79.

85. (New) A method for treating or preventing an IL-6 related disease in a subject comprising administering to the subject the pharmaceutical preparation of claim 80.

86. (New) A method for treating or preventing an IL-6 related disease in a subject comprising administering to the subject the pharmaceutical preparation of claim 81.

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